

Message Text

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SUBJECT: UNCTAD: COMMITTEE ON COMMODITIES ROUNDUP

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BEGIN SUMMARY: THIS TELEGRAM SUMMARIZES ACTION TAKEN AT SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION OF COMMITTEE ONCOMMODITIES ON SECRETARIAT STUDY ON MARKETING AND DISTRIBUTION OF COCOA, OUTSTANDING DRAFT RESOLUTIONS ON DIVERSIFICATION, AND AGENDA AND DATE OF NEXT SESSION. ALSO COVERED ARE SECRETARIAT REPORT ON PARTICIPATION IN MEETINGS OF PRODUCING COUNTRIES AND BOLIVIAN INTERVENTION ON TUNGSTEN. END SUMMARY

1. MARKETING AND DISTRIBUTION -- COMMITTEE DEBATED STUDY ON MARKETING AND DISTRIBUTION OF COCOA DESPITE FACT REPORT
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NOT READY BY MOST DELS. SECRETARIAT STATED EQUIVALENT STUDIES NOW UNDERWAY ON RUBBER AND MANGANESE ORE. DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WELCOMED COCOA STUDY AND URGED EARLY COMPLETION OF OTHER STUDIES. SOME DCS SUGGESTED WORK ON MARKETING DISTRIBUTION SHOULD AWAIT CONSIDERATION OF COCOA STUDY BY GOVERNMENTS. MEXICO ASKED FOR STUDY ON COTTON. NUMBER OF SOCIALIST COUNTRIES AND CHILE SAID STUDY DID NOT SUFFICIENTLY STRESS NEGATIVE INFLUENCE OF MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS. IN RESPONSE TO REQUESTS FROM LDCS FOR AT LEAST PRELIMINARY REACTIONS, NETHERLANDS (DE BLOEME) AND FRANCE (JANTON) MADE PERSONAL STATEMENTS INCLUDING NUMBER OF CRITICAL REMARKS. NIGERIA, WITH SUPPORT OF AFRICAN GROUP, PRESSED HARD TO ENSURE STUDY WILL NOT BE SHLVED AND SUGGESTED IT BE REVIEWED BY IGG AND CONSIDERED AT TDB XIII OR BE TAKEN UP IN SESSIONAL COMMITTEE OF BOARD. FAO SUGGESTED REPORT BE CONSIDERED BY SMALL GROUP OF EXPERTS OR SYMPOSIUM. (UK FIRST OBJECTED BUT LATER SUPPORTED EXPORT GROUP.) MOST GROUP B COUNTRIES SUGGESTED THAT STUDY BE SENT TO BOARD AND THAT SECRETARIAT REQUEST GOVERNMENTS IN MEANTIME COMMENT IN WRITING. IN ORDER RESOLVE DIFFERENCES, US, UK, NIGERIA AND IVORY COAST MET INFORMALLY AND EVENTUALLY REACHED NEUTRAL ARRANGEMENT ON INSTITUTIONAL ISSUES AND DISPOSITION OF REPORT.

AGREED CONCLUSION (1) INVITES GOVERNMENTS SUBMIT WRITTEN COMMENTS BEFORE TDB XIII ON MAIN ASPECTS AND DISPOSITION OF REPORT; (2) ASKS SECRETARIAT TO CONTINUE WORK ON COCOA STUDY AND TO CONSIDER REVIEWING IT WITH KNOWLEDGEABLE PERSONS AND/ OR ORGANIZATIONS AND (3) SUGGESTS THAT TDB XIII MAY WISH CONSIDER WHETHER INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGMENTS AT ITS SESSION ARE NECESSARY TO GIVE REPORT AND ANY ADDENDA DUE CONSIDERATION.

2. DIVERSIFICATION -- SUBSTANCE OF ISSUE WAS NOT DEBATED. GROUP OF 77 SUGGESTED TWO DRAFT RESOLUTIONS BE REMITTED TO TDB XIII. SINCE ISSUE RAISED LATE IN SESSION, GROUP B AGREED BUT STATED EXPECTATION THAT SECRETARIAT WOULD CONTINUE ITS WORK ON DIVERSIFICATION.

3. SECRETARIAT PARTICIPTION IN PRODUCER MEETINGS -- IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAS 189 AND 190 OF REPORT OF CCVI, SECRETARIAT REPORTED IT REPRESENTED AT THREE MEETINGS OF UNCLASSIFIED

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PRODUCERS ON IRON ORE, ONE MEETING ON COPPER AND SEVERAL

FAO MEETINGS ON TEA.

4. TUNGSTEN -- UNDER OTHER BUSINESS, BOLIVIAN DEL INSISTED SECRETARIAT SET DATE FOR MEETING OF COMMITTEE ON TUNGSTEN. HE MADE CONFUSED STATEMENT IMPLYING US AND GERMANY HOLDING UP MEETING. SAID HIS GOVERNMENT ANXIOUS HAVE TUNGSTEN CONSIDERED IN VIEW ERRATIC MOVES IN PRICES AND INFLUENCE OF MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS. AT URGING US DEL, SECRETARIAT SET RECORD STRAIGHT BY READING PERTINENT PARAS OF REPORT OF WORK GROUP. SECRETARIAT SAID DATE WILL HAVE BE SET IN LIGHT OF FINAL CONCLUSIONS ON RES 83(III) BUT COMMITTEE LIKELY MEET LATE 1973. (TUNGSTEN HAS BEEN INCLUDED IN LISTS OF COMMODITIES FOR INTENSIVE CONSULTATIONS OF LATIN AMERICAN AND ASIAN GROUPS.)

5. AGENDA AND DATE OF NEXT SESSION -- IN VIEW OF LATE HOUR, COMMITTEE AGREED AS AT PREVIOUS SESSION TO HAVE UNCTAD SG SUGGEST PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND DATE OF NEXT SESSION AFTER CONSULTATIONS WITH COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN, PRESIDENT OF TDB AND REGIONAL GROUPS. RIMESTAD

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